4th March 1927]

Excise

Closure of arrack shops in Attur taluk.

* 237 *Q.*—Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the period for which the arrack shops in Attur taluk of Salem district have been closed;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that no inordinate difficulties or troubles have been experienced by the closure of the said shops;

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to extend this trial in some more taluks of the district; and

(*d*) the total number of toddy shops in the Salem district and the income derived therefrom in the year 1922 and in 1926?

A.—(*a*) The arrack shops were first closed for a period of three years from 1st April 1924. The Government have since directed the continuance of the experimental closure of the shops for a further period of two years.

(*b*) No. On the other hand it is reported that excise crime has increased in the Attur and adjoining taluks and that the people in the taluk have complained to the local officers about the closure of the shops.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The number of shops sold and the income derived for the leases 1922-23 and 1925-26 are as shown below:—

Year.	Number of shops.	Revenue.
		RS.
1922-23	508	17,80,300
1925-26	499	15,27,266

Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar:—"Sir, with regard to clause (*b*), will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place the report on the table of this House?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"I think the Excise Commissioner's report was placed on the table of the House yesterday, Sir."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*b*), will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state whether there is any report in regard to the other crimes in the taluk and whether there has been any decrease in crimes other than excise crime?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"I have nothing to do with that, Sir."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju:—"I want to know, Sir, whether there is a decrease in other crimes in the taluk."